

## Tommy's Troubles <sup>1</sup>

This is a story about a boy who works on a farm and gets into trouble.

### Instructions

Get together with two or three of your friends. Read the story and answer the questions that appear in the story.

Mark your answers on the answer sheet. Please don't write in the problem booklet. That way the problem booklet can be used again.

After you have selected your answers to each question, discuss your choices with your friends. Then continue reading the story and answering and discussing the questions.

When you finish the story, ask for a copy of the answer key. Compare your answers to the answer key. After you have discussed the story and answers with your friends and the instructor, complete the questionnaire attached to this answer sheet. Give the booklet and the completed answer sheet to the instructor. Your answers will be used to improve the exercise. Thanks!

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<sup>1</sup> Developed April 1994 by Henry P. Cole, Robert McKnight, and Larry Piercy, Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention, University of Kentucky; and Robert L. McLymore, Director, North Carolina State University, Agricultural Health Promotion System. Revised February 1998 by Larry Piercy and Henry Cole. The work was supported by CDC/NIOSH Cooperative Agreements U07/CCU408035-03-1, U06/CCU412900-01, -02 and -03. The views expressed in this document are those of the authors and not necessarily those of CDC/NIOSH or the US Government.

## **Tommy and His Family**

Tommy, age 15, helps his mom and dad on their 180-acre farm. He started driving a tractor when he was 12 and is now learning to bushhog. Tommy's dad doesn't wear the seat belt on their ROPS-equipped tractor but tells Tommy to wear the belt.

### **Tommy Helps His Dad**

At breakfast Dad is worried about the six-foot high weeds in the north pasture. He says, "They need to be cut, but I've been too busy to get to it."

Tommy says, "I can bushhog the pasture after school today!"

Dad says, "I don't know.... You've never bushhogged tall weeds before, only once or twice in the short stuff near the house. I'll be at work in town and can't help you."

Tommy says, "I can do it, Dad! You showed me how last year! Remember?"

Dad says, "OK, but be careful!"

Tommy gets home from school at 3:30, puts on old clothes, and does his barn chores. Then he hitches the bushhog to the tractor. Because he's going to a ball game at 6:30, Tommy washes his hands and face and puts on his good clothes so that he will be ready when his friends get there. Then he gets on the tractor and starts to bushhog.

Turn the page and begin.

Work a page at a time.

Don't jump ahead, but you can look back anytime you want.

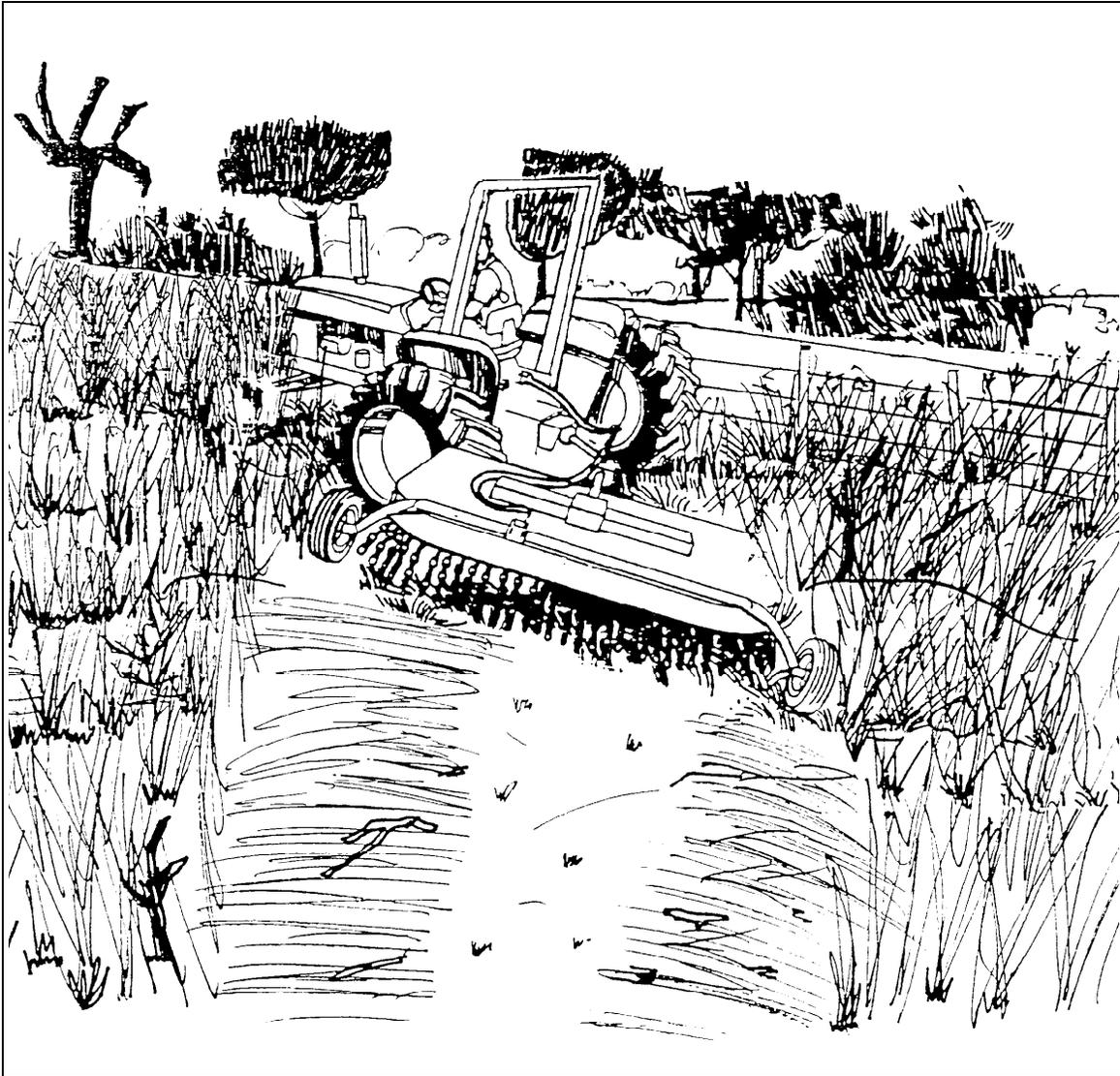
.Question A

Look at Figure 1. What are some possible hazards for Tommy as he bushhogs the pasture? (Circle A or D on your answer sheet to indicate if you agree or disagree.)

- A D 1. Poor visibility as he drives the tractor in the tall weeds.
- A D 2. Catching the weeds on fire with the tractor.
- A D 3. Being stung by wasps or bees.
- A D 4. Running into a hole, a rock, or a stump.
- A D 5. Bumping a tree and having a dead limb fall on him.

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[After you have marked your answer sheet, please continue with the story.]



**Figure 1:** Tommy starts mowing the tall weeds.

Question B

As Tommy mows, it gets rougher. The weeds are so thick and tall that he can't see the ground. He thinks about putting on the seat belt, but it's greasy and he doesn't want to get his good clothes dirty. Twice he has to shut the tractor down and get off to clean brush out of the bushhog.

If Tommy were your son (or brother), what would he do? (Put a v mark on your answer sheet in front of one answer.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Tommy **would not** wear the seat belt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Tommy **would** wear the seat belt.

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[After you have marked your answer sheet, please continue with the story.]

Question C

The ground gets smoother and Tommy speeds up so that he won't be late for the ball game. Suddenly the tractor's right rear wheel strikes a log hidden in the weeds. The tractor is thrown upward and starts to overturn. See Figure 2.

At this **instant**, what can Tommy do to **prevent** overturning and getting hurt? (Circle A or D on your answer sheet to indicate if you agree or disagree.)

- A D 8. Jump off the tractor before it overturns.
- A D 9. Push in the clutch.
- A D 10. Shift his weight to the right.
- A D 11. Turn the tractor wheels to the left.
- A D 12. There is nothing he can do now.

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[After you have marked your answer sheet, please continue with the story.]



**Figure 2:** The tractor strikes a log and starts to overturn

Whump! Bang! Crash! The tractor flips over on its left side and comes to a violent stop.

Question D

What could happen to Tommy if he **had** his seat belt properly fastened?  
(Circle A or D on your answer sheet to indicate if you agree or disagree.)

- A D 13. He could be thrown from the tractor.
- A D 14. The tractor could crush him.
- A D 15. If the fuel catches fire, he could be trapped and burn to death.
- A D 16. He could be shaken up and bruised but not hurt.
- A D 17. He could be thrown off and cut to pieces by the bushhog.
- A D 18. He could miss the ball game.

Question E

What could happen to Tommy if he **did not** have his seat belt fastened?  
(Circle A or D on your answer sheet to indicate if you agree or disagree.)

- A D 19. He could be thrown from the tractor.
- A D 20. The tractor could crush him.
- A D 21. If the fuel catches fire, he could be trapped and burn to death.
- A D 22. He could be shaken up and bruised but not hurt.
- A D 23. He could be thrown off and cut to pieces by the bushhog.
- A D 24. He could miss the ball game.

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[After you have marked your answer sheet, please continue with the story.]

The next three questions ask about how many people are killed by tractor injuries, how many people die in tractor overturns, and how many tractor drivers are protected by ROPS and seat belts. Select one answer to each question. When you finish, you will have a chance to check your answers.

### Question F

In the United States, what percentage of all farm fatalities are caused by injuries from tractors? (Put a v mark on your answer sheet in front of one answer.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. 10%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. 25%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. 33%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. 45%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. 66%

### Question G

In the United States, what percentage of all people killed by farm tractors die because of overturns? (Put a v mark on your answer sheet in front of one answer.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. 12%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. 25%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. 35%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 33. 48%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 34. 60%

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[After you have marked your answer sheet, please continue with the story.]

Question H

In Kentucky, what percentage of farm-tractor drivers are protected by both a ROPS and a seat belt? (Put a v mark on your answer sheet in front of one answer.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 35. 6%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 36. 10%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 37. 22%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 38. 30%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 39. 55%
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**What Happened to Tommy?**

Read the two newspaper clippings on the next page to find out what happened to Tommy.

Then please:

Ask the instructor for a copy of the answer key.

Compare your ideas and answers to those on the answer key.

Discuss any ideas and differences of opinion.

Complete the questionnaire attached to your answer sheet.

## Without Seat Belt

### **Farm youth injured in tractor overturn**

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A 15-year-old Hazlette County boy received severe head injuries when he was thrown from a tractor on Thursday, according to the Sheriff's office.

About 4:30 P.M. the boy, Tommy, was bushhogging a pasture for his father, Delbert Jackson, who was at work. About 6:30 P.M., when he failed to return home, his mother found the boy unconscious near the overturned tractor. The Hazlette County Fire and Rescue Squad responded and transported the youth to Lincoln Memorial Hospital where he is listed in critical condition.

Rescue squad Captain Elmer Fitch, said, "The boy struck his head against a rock when he was thrown off the tractor." The tractor overturned when it ran onto a log hidden in the weeds. Fitch said the tractor had a rollover protective structure (a ROPS) but the boy was not wearing the seat belt.

## With Seat Belt

### **Farm youth OK after tractor overturn**

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A 15-year-old Hazlette County boy escaped injury when the tractor he was operating overturned on Thursday, according to the Sheriff's office.

About 4:30 P.M. the boy, Tommy, was bushhogging a pasture for his father, Delbert Jackson, who was at work. At 6:00 P.M., the boy walked home and reported the accident to his mother, who called the Hazlette County Fire and Rescue Squad.

Rescue squad Captain Elmer Fitch, said, "The boy was shaken up but not injured." The tractor overturned when it ran onto a log hidden in the weeds. Fitch said the tractor had a rollover protective structure (a ROPS) and the boy was wearing the seat belt. Fitch said, "The ROPS prevented the boy from being crushed, and the seat belt held him in the frame of safety provided by the ROPS."

Tommy went to school Friday.